# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7943
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
ASYLUM TO KARMAPA
SHYAMA SINGH

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have unofficially permitted Karmapa to stay in India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of China thereto?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) : Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, arrived in Dharamsala from Tibet on January 5, 2000. The official Chinese position on Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji`s arrival in India is that Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji hac gone abroad to `get the musical instruments` of the Buddhist rituals and the `black hat` used by previous Karmapas. The Chinese side has been requested to share with us details regarding the circumstances of his departure from Tibet for India. India and China have been in touch through diplomatic channels. The two sides have noted with satisfaction the improvement and development of bilateral relations on the basis of Panchsheel.